



At the beginning of August, this pond off of Bay Farm Road had all but dried up.

Photo by Kelly Clark

Back in Action

Bay Farm pond returns

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Just as fast as it disappeared, the pond off of Bay Farm Road has been replenished. The solution to this watery mystery was just underneath the surface.

The peculiar draining occurred almost instantly. On July 16 the pond was a thriving body of water, but on July 19 it took on the image of a creek bed. Pond-goers began to speculate. Had a pumping system at the lower end of the pond failed? Was it a case of supply and demand? Was watering nearby bogs reducing the water level? Bob Burnham, one of the Bay Farm Association Trust trustees, enlisted the help of property manager Rich Moschetti and vowed to get to the bottom of it.

After a week of studying the missing body of water, the pair became frustrated and Burnham contacted local businessman Chris Phillips of Phillips Tree and Construction. Burnham said he and Phillips met at the

pond at 6:30 a.m. and the light of the early morning allowed the pair to clearly see the root of the problem.

"We saw a break in the bottom of the output area," Burnham said.

Phillips said he found three fist-sized holes in the overflow dam. He was able to construct a new overflow inside the existing overflow during the second week of August. He said the result was water pouring back into the area at a rate of five inches a day.

"The pond is entirely spring fed," Conservation Administrator Joe Grady said. "There was a gaping hole and the water going out was greater than the amount coming in."

Restoration of the pond was a priority for residents due to its historical roots in that part of town. Back in July, a concerned neighbor, Terry Fitzpatrick of Day Farm Road, said the roughly half-acre pond has been around since the 1940s, when it was built by the seminarians at Miramar. From there, it became a swimming pond and many of the kids in town learned to swim there in the 50s and 60s, according to Fitzpatrick.

"When Day Farm was built in 1983, they couldn't get a permit for the pond to be a swimming pond and put fish in instead...five to six pound large mouth bass," Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick was one of the many residents who moved fish living in the pond to a lower pond when the water level dropped sharply in July. Burnham said the pond already looks much better and that all the big turtles who call the pond home survived the ordeal.

"It took a good team to figure out what was going on," Burnham said. "We were able to solve the problem quickly because the town and Chris worked together."



Less than a month after the pond began "disappearing" minor repairs by local Duxbury businessman Chris Phillips restored the pond to its full capacity at five inches per day.